



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA SAFE BOATING WEEK

- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is blessed with many beautiful and accessible coastal waters, freshwater rivers, and lakes. Unfortunately, an average of 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States. Nearly 70 percent of these fatalities are caused by drowning, and the vast majority of such accidents are brought on by human error or poor judgment rather than mechanical or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS: During Georgia Safe Boating Week and throughout the year, dedicated enforcement officers, as well as volunteer organizations, provide Georgia citizens with the knowledge and skills to become safer and more responsible boaters; and
- WHEREAS: We have the freedom and ability to use many of Georgia's waterways for personal recreation and enjoyment. The growing popularity of recreational boating and related water sports has increased the responsibilities of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as volunteer organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron, who strive to ensure the safety of the boating public; and
- WHEREAS: A significant number of boaters who drowned would likely be alive today if they had been wearing life jackets. Drowning is the reported cause of death in three-fourths of all boating fatalities and in 2015, 85 percent of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents were not wearing a life jacket. Boaters are required to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket on board and available for each person on the boat. Boating safety advocates recommend that all boaters and passengers not only have a life jacket, but also wear it while boating; and
- WHEREAS: Checking the weather, filing a float plan, staying sober, and following Coast Guard regulations are some of the essential elements of safe boating. Boating safety knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error, improving judgment, and ultimately saving lives; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 20–27, 2017, as GEORGIA SAFE BOATING WEEK.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF